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USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SAHAA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

UNCLAS STATE 254629

E.O. 12968: N/A

TAGS: SOPH

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING SEPTEMBER 23, 1981

**FOR ADDRESSEE POSTS' INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING
ARE EXCERPTS FROM TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING. SPOKESMAN WAS
ALAN ROMBERG.**

Q. ALAN, IS THE UNITED STATES INVOLVED IN THE PURCHASE AND
TRANSPORT OF SOVIET-MANUFACTURED OR DESIGNED ARMS FROM
EGYPT AND SUPPLYING THEM TO ELEMENTS IN PAKISTAN, AFGHAN
GUERRILLAS IN PAKISTAN?

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A. AS IS OUR USUAL PRACTICE, WE DO NOT COMMENT ON REPORTS
OF THIS SORT.

Q. PRESIDENT SADAT HAS.

A. I UNDERSTAND THAT.

Q. YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING --

A. I MIGHT NOTE, AS I THINK WE DID TO THE PRESS LAST NIGHT

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AND AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY, THAT THE BULK OF THE ARMS IN AFGHANISTAN NATIONALIST HANDS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FROM

INDIGENOUS SOURCES. THIS INCLUDES ARMS CAPTURED FROM THE SOVIETS, FROM DEFECTING OR COOPERATING AFGHAN ARMY PERSONNEL AND EXISTING SUPPLIES IN LOCAL HANDS.

Q. SO YOU WILL NOT COMMENT ON THE NBC REPORT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS INVOLVED IN THE PURCHASE AND TRANSPORT OF THOSE ARMS?

A. I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY BEYOND WHAT I HAVE SAID.

Q. AND ARE YOU NOT COMMENTING BECAUSE THIS IS OF THE REPORT, OR BECAUSE IT IS AN INTELLIGENCE MATTER?

A. WE HAVEN'T COMMENTED ON THIS QUESTION IN THE PAST. IT HAS BEEN RAISED IN THE PAST AND WE HAVEN'T COMMENTED ON IT AND WE ARE BEING CONSISTENT.

Q. WOULD YOU COMMENT ON WIRE STATEMENTS THAT SADAT MADE THIS COMMENT THAT YOU WON'T COMMENT ON?

A. NO.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE OPENING OF THE AUTONOMY
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TALKS; AND THE ISRAELI ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THEY ARE GOING TO GO TO CIVILIAN RULE IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES?

A. NO, I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU. I WOULD SIMPLY NOTE THAT THE TALKS IN CAIRO ARE UNDER WAY.

Q. THERE IS AN AMERICAN TEAM THERE IN CAIRO UNDER WAT CLUVERIUS -- DEALING WITH THOSE TALKS?

A. I AM SURE HE IS INVOLVED IN THIS. THE U.S. IS BEING REPRESENTED. THE SENIOR MEMBERS, I GUESS, OF THE TEAM ARE THE U.S. AMBASSADORS TO EGYPT AND ISRAEL -- AMBASSADORS ATHERTON AND LEVIS, BUT AMBASSADOR CLUVERIUS IS CERTAINLY A MEMBER OF THAT TEAM.

Q. WAS THERE AN AMERICAN POSITION REGARDING THE ATTEMPTS

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TO EXPEL ISRAEL FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC AGENCY:

A. OBVIOUSLY, WE WOULD BE OPPOSED TO EXPULSION.

Q. ARE YOU DOING ANYTHING TO COUNTER THE ATTEMPTS THAT ARE --

A. WELL, I THINK YOU COULD ASSUME THAT WE WOULD BE DOING SOME THINGS, BUT I DON'T THINK I COULD GET INTO DETAIL.

Q. WELL, IN THE PAST FEW OCCASIONS WHEN THERE WERE SUCH ATTEMPTS, THE ADMINISTRATION ISSUED A KIND OF ANNOUNCEMENT SAYING THAT IF ISRAEL OR SOME OTHER COUNTRIES ARE EXPELLED, THE U.S. WOULD WITHDRAW BY ITSELF FROM THIS ORGANIZATION, OR SUSPEND ITS ACTIVITY IN IT.

ARE YOU GOING TO DO THIS SAME THING IN THIS CASE?

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A. I HAVE NO IDEA WHETHER WE WILL DO IT IN THIS CASE. IN ANY CASE, I HAVE NOTHING FOR YOU RIGHT NOW.

Q. THERE WAS AN ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT POLLED, THE OTHER DAY...THEY FOUND TWELVE SENATORS -- "ONLY TWELVE SENATORS" SUPPORTING THE SALE OF THE AWACS. CAN YOU GIVE US SOME MORE DETAILS?

A. FIRST OF ALL, THERE HAS BEEN NO STATE DEPARTMENT POLL, SO I THINK THAT OUGHT TO BE NOTED.

WE DO HAVE SOME INFORMAL PAPERS WHERE PEOPLE HAVE IDENTIFIED WHERE WE MIGHT BEST EMPLOY OUR BRIEFING RESOURCES. BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO TALLY AND IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO MAKE A TALLY AT THIS TIME BECAUSE WE HAD ONLY BEGUN THE BRIEFING PROCESS AND IT WOULDN'T BE VERY MEANINGFUL.

SO THAT IS JUST NOT THE WAY WE ARE APPROACHING IT AT THIS POINT. WE ARE NOT COUNTING NUMBERS.

Q. IS THERE ANY INDICATION WHERE THOSE PAPERS ARE COMING FROM, WHICH OFFICE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A. I WOULDN'T WANT TO GET INTO THAT QUESTION.

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Q. YOU SAY YOU HAVE NO INFORMAL NOSE COUNT ON WHO IS SUPPORTING YOU ON THIS ISSUE?

A. WE HAVE NOT SOUGHT TO TALLY NUMBERS AT THIS POINT.

Q. I HEARD TODAY THAT THE GUERILLAS ARE CONTROLLING A MAJOR -- THE SECOND MAJOR CITY IN AFGHANISTAN. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON IT?

A. I HAVE NO INFORMATION ABOUT IT.

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KABUL: MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. CLARK

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